

Observations of Comet a, 1883, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

(Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.)

The observations were made with the East or Sheepshanks Equatorial, by taking transits over two cross wires at right angles to each other, and inclined 45° to the parallel of declination.

Green. Mean Solar Time.			Obs.	R.A.		$\delta - ^\circ$	N.P.D.	No. of Comp.	Apparent R.A.			Apparent N.P.D.	Star.
d	h	m		m	s				h	m	s	° ' "	
Mar. 9	7	55	T.	+2	11'33	+	5 28"5	3					a
				+0	23'50	+	2 18'7	3	1	8	36'03	58 38 8'3	b
	8	45		-2	1'67	-	14 2'2	3	1	8	53'60	58 38 14'0	c
	9	0		+2	35'83	+	6 4'8	3					a
				+0	47'33	+	2 46'5	3	1	8	59'86	58 38 36'1	b
	9	8		-1	52'00	-	13 40'8	1	1	9	3'27	58 38 35'4	c

Mean Places of the Comparison Stars.

Star.	Star's Name.	R.A. 1883'o.			N.P.D. 1883'o.			Authority.
		h	m	s	°	'	"	
a	Anonymous							
b	W. B. (2) I. - 109	1	8	12'12	58	35	54'2	W. B. (2)
c	W. B. (2) I. - 175-6	1	10	54'85	58	52	20'7	W. B. (2)

Note.—Comet faint and diffused.

The observations are not corrected for refraction or parallax. The comet was also observed on March 12 and 27, but the comparison stars cannot be identified.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich:
1883, April 13.

*Spectroscopic Observations of Comet a, 1883 (Brooks-Swift).
By Dr. N. de Konkoly.*

The observations were made with the large Refractor (10-inch aperture), by Merz, on March 3, at 8^h mean time, at an altitude of 17° .

The spectroscope used was similar to that I constructed for the Brussels Observatory, with a colorimeter, made for me kindly by my friend E. de Gothard, owner of a beautiful Observatory at Herény, near Steinamanger (Hungary), with an excellent direct vision prism, by Dr. Hugo Schröder.

I saw in the spectrum only three bright bands, and with a widely-opened slit a very faint continuous spectrum, of which

I estimated the ends to be respectively 565.0 and 470.0 mm. wave-length.

I estimated the intensity of the bands at 0.6, 1.0, and 0.3. The faintest was near the violet end of the spectrum. The positions of the bands were

I.	559.9 mm. (of wave length).
II.	515.6 " "
III.	470.2 " "

The lines correspond very well with the bands in the hydrocarbon spectrum.

The position of the bands given is that of their maximum intensity.

OGyalla Observatory:
1883, March 12.

Note on the Eclipse of Jupiter's 4th Satellite on April 4.
By Capt. W. Noble.

The satellite did not even begin to fade out until some minutes after the predicted time, and did so very gradually indeed, flashing up at intervals in a way which I could hardly persuade myself was wholly referable to atmospheric undulation. I did not finally lose sight of it until 9^h 58^m 18^s Local Mean Time = 9^h 58^m 0^s G.M.T. (the longitude of my Observatory being 17.8 seconds east of Greenwich). Its disappearance was announced in the *Nautical Almanac* as occurring at 9^h 33^m 54^s G.M.T.; a prediction thus shown to be 24^m 6^s wrong. Of course a larger telescope than mine would have held the satellite still longer in view. I would venture to suggest that the "explanation" on pp. 501 and 502 of the *Nautical Almanac* should be supplemented by a caution as to the utter untrustworthiness of such predictions as the one on which I am commenting. I know how imperfect Damoiseau's Tables are. All I contend for is that the ephemerides calculated from them should not be given to the public without a single word of warning that they are not to be depended upon within four-and-twenty minutes. The instrument employed was my 4.2-in. Ross Equatorial, with a power of 154.

Forest Lodge, Maresfield, Uckfield:
1883, April 12.

[NOTE.—It was explained to the meeting by Mr. Marth, that at the beginning or end of a series of Eclipses of the Fourth Satellite the times of duration were very variable, and that the difference of 24^m did not imply any great error in the Tables, because the slightest difference in latitude made an enormous difference in the length of the chord within the shadow-cone described by the satellite.—ED.]